

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Claims 1-15 were rejected under 35 USC 103 and/or 35 USC 112. Please cancel claims 1-15 and ADD new claims 16-24.

1-15. (canceled)

16. (new) A germ protective cake cover assembly comprising:

a generally transparent cover molded in the shape of a common cake, the cover comprising a top surface and side surface,

the top surface comprising a plurality of recessed round apertures thereon, which function to receive and hold candles therein, the quantity of the recessed round apertures in the range of one to one hundred ten,

the top surface further comprising at least one message slot in a generally centered position thereon, the message slot generally rectangular in shape and functioning to slidably receive a celebratory text message panel therein,

the celebratory text message panel selected from a group of previously-determined text phrase panels included in the assembly,

a bottom piece upon which the cake sits, the bottom piece of a shape corresponding to that of the cover, the bottom piece functioning to receive the cover, effectively enclosing the cake therein, the bottom piece further comprising a locking means which functions to allow the cover to engage the bottom piece in a tight and secure fashion,

the assembly functioning to protect the cake from germs from individuals blowing out candles thereon, while providing a means to view the cake and functioning to provide a storage container for the cake.

17. (new) The germ protective cake cover assembly as described in claim 16, wherein the assembly further comprises a plurality of letters of the alphabet that may be configured by a user into names and messages for insertion into the message slot.

18. (new) The germ protective cake cover assembly as described in claim 16, wherein the cover side portion comprises a plurality of indentations which function to facilitate lifting and lowering of the cover.

19. (new) The germ protective cake cover assembly as described in claim 16, wherein the cover portion further comprises at least one handle member, which function to facilitate lifting and lowering of the assembly.

20. (new) The germ protective cake cover assembly as described in claim 16, wherein the assembly is freezer proof, functioning to allow a cake held within the assembly to be stored in a freezer for extended periods of time.

21. (new) The germ protective cake cover assembly as described in claim 16, wherein the cover and bottom piece are of a shape selected from the group consisting of round, oval, square and rectangular.

22. (new) The germ protective cake cover assembly as described in claim 16, wherein the assembly is manufactured in a variety of sizes in order to accommodate varying sizes of common cakes.

23. (new) The germ protective cake cover assembly as described in claim 16, wherein the recessed round apertures function to receive and hold candle holders, functioning to provide an effective means to hold candles neatly.

24. (new) The germ protective cake cover assembly as described in claim 16, wherein the cover and bottom piece of the assembly are manufactured of a durable plastic or polymeric material.